

California **GARDEN**

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JANUARY 1938

PRESIDIO PARK NUMBER



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No. 7

Presidio Park

By JOHN D. WIMMER

For those of us who, for so many years, have approached San Diego from the north with a feeling of shame that the coast gateway to our city should be so shabby there is now an ever re-curring thrill to have our eyes caught by the tower of the Serra Museum and its lovely setting. That this historic hill, "the Plymouth Rock of the Pacific coast" has been preserved as a public monument, has been saved from subdivision development by private owners is due to the efforts of Mr. George W. Marston, to whom the citizens of San Diego owe an everlasting debt.

We all have driven through the park, a public park since 1930, and have seen the restorations, the preservations of the historic and picturesque beginnings of California's oldest town. Seven years before Thomas Jefferson wrote our Declaration of Independence Fra Juniper Serra founded on this site the Mission San Diego de Alcala. The mission itself was moved to its present site on the San Diego river a few years later but for sixty years soldiers, sailors and priests of Spain lived on this hill top. Only traces of the former buildings, defense stations, burial grounds and gardens remain and there has been no effort to reconstruct them. Instead, as a symbol, the Serra Museum building crests the hill. This building with its beauty of pure, simple architectural perfection is supplemented by the equally fine design in landscaping. The roads, the

paths, the restraint and sense of appropriateness of materials show the hand of an artist.

In the Museum the San Diego Historical and Pioneer Societies have gathered together a most interesting collection of Californiana: books, letters, maps, furniture, well worth not only one but repeated visits to study. A walled terraced encloses the building from which superb views may be had of Coronado, the bay with its Silver Gate, Point Loma and, best of all, the panorama of Mission Valley and the mountains.

The grounds of the park consist of 39 acres but as much of it lies on steep hillsides it equals 45 acres of level ground. From a car it is impossible to appreciate the park area although one does feel relief in the simple, open landscaping. There is only one way to enjoy fully the gems of plant composition and that is to walk about on the grass paths, a special treat for Californians. Many of the numerous specimens are labeled. There are excellent bits of planting combined with architectural detail.

Even if you persist in viewing the park from a car window there are many delightful and interesting things which can be seen. You may get ideas which may solve landscape problems of your own. In entering the park from Mission Hills I suggest that you turn on Cosoy Way to see the splendid hillside planting of *Hypericum floribundum*, *Veronica*, *Ceanothus cuneatus*, *C. arboreus*, and, *Leptospermum*. These shrubs are used in great masses and in the spring when

the native Lilac is in bloom it is a sight no one should miss. Cosoy Way curves around a sweep of lawn in which there is fine planting of Canary Island Pines, *Pinus canariensis*. As the roadway meets the main drive through the park note the masses of Pyracantha of various species which now are at their best. See how beautifully they solve the planting of a hillside. As you turn down toward the Museum you will see, on the left, a graceful circular seat enframed by olive trees, a nice bit of composition. Then you come to a group of weeping trees which are rarely used in San Diego although with good drainage they thrive. They are of the Acacia family and are known as *Acacia pendula*. On the right is a short, steep bank planted at the top with Cherokee roses which is another good solution for bank planting.

As you turn downward from the Museum there is a stucco coated adobe wall and could anything be prettier with it than the *Solanum rantonneti* that tumbles over it. The wall carries along the edge of the cliff. At one time such a wall may well have served as a rampart but now it forms a background for a planting of succulents. To me this succulent garden is as pleasing as any I have seen.

On the left is the site of the first mission church on which has been placed an Arthur Putnum statue of a priest. Stop and see how beautifully this bronze has been placed. It stands at the far side of a small, concave depression of lawn. Pepper trees surround it and under them an Ivy ground cover comes down

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The Freezes of January 1937

By Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

The question often is asked why severe frosts are so infrequent in San Diego County, and the observation that avocados, a tropical fruit, are grown commercially on a larger scale in this County than anywhere else in the State is proof positive of the mildness of our winter weather.

The answer, of course, is the location. Situated on the west coast of the continent, with the prevailing winds in winter from over the relatively warm Pacific waters, cold weather reaches us only when there is an abnormal movement of polar air this far south.

To the citrus growers of the County there were only four outstanding freezes—all in January; one in 1913; one in 1932 and two in 1937. The conditions responsible for their occurrence were so similar that the weather maps for the four periods show a remarkable resemblance. In each case the damaging cold originated in the frigid wastes of the North American continent, rather than over the Arctic Ocean or Bering Sea, the normal source of cold air that visits southern California, and in each case it spread southward from its source, reaching us after a journey over western Canada with some of its iciness still present. Therefore, a brief explanation of the weather situation which caused the freezes last January may be of more than passing interest.

After a warm and rainy December, when little protection was necessary to crops in southern California, January suddenly turned extremely cold. This radical change in temperature was caused by the appearance of an unusually large high barometric area, (referred to by meteorologists as an intense anticyclone), which covered all of the northeast Pacific ocean most of the month. It is a matter of observation that winds move in a clockwise direction away from high pressure areas, so, during almost all of January, the air from the Polar regions travelled southward over western Canada and the Pacific states, causing the month to be one of the cold-

est on record in far-western United States. However, there is some consolation in the official report that San Diego was the warmest place in California.

There were two severe outbursts of cold air; one that reached us the first week in January; the other that came during the third week. The first, while not as severe as the second, caused immense damage in the State, particularly in unprotected groves. Firing was necessary everywhere, but where the equipment was adequate, crops and trees were generally saved.

The second cold wave, two weeks later was the most disastrous since that of 1913. Appearing over Alaska and the Canadian Northwest on January 18th as an air mass with phenomenally low temperature, it moved southward rapidly, and, following closely in the rear of a small storm which had formed in the Gulf of Alaska, by the next day it overspread Washington, Oregon and Idaho. By the 20th the advancing front of cold weather was reported in Nevada and northern California, and by the night of the 21st was over southern California and Arizona.

Air masses are identified by their temperature and water vapor content, soundings being made of the vertical structure of the atmosphere by airplanes and radiometeorographs, and it is well known now that masses which reach us after a journey over the continent are much colder and drier than those from over the relatively warmer Pacific Ocean, and that all of our freezes have occurred when air has originated over far-northern land areas.

While temperatures in the County were not as low as they were in 1913, nevertheless new minimum records were created at all of the stations established since then. In most of the citrus districts of the County the lowest readings ranged from 21 to 25 degrees, while in 1913 the range was from 13 to 21 degrees.

Presidio Park

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a gentle slope to meet the lawn. Then turn from this setting to the one for the other fine Putnum statue across the road of an Indian of heroic size. At once an appreciation of the importance of proper background for garden ornament is evident.

The great cross which, rightly, is so prominent on its commanding position overlooking Old Town is made of the tiles of the original mission church. On this terrace you will find a well designed wooden bench of a type so well suited for garden use.

If you will do more than just drive through the park go see the Franciscan Gardens where there are tables for picnics if you are so minded. Let me again suggest that you have the pleasure of grass walks which lead you through so many gentle clearings and lovely woods. Breathe some of the fragrance of the *Acacia podalyriefolia*, which is just coming into bloom. Don't neglect the path leading to and around the highest knoll of the park where you will find a pergola outlook toward Mission Valley. In the bottom of an arroyo several hundred feet below there is the fresh green of a clipped lawn contrasting pleasantly with the browns of the canyons beyond. On the near slope wild Lilac has been newly planted. On the lower portion of the far side of the arroyo many palms have been set out which in time will form an inspiring palm canyon.

We owe all this to the vision and generosity of Mr. Marston. To me it seems that Presidio Park is the culmination, the final expression of his years of experience with city beautification such as the Nolan Plan, Balboa Park and the Civic Center. This Presidio Park is still new, still young but has reached a stage of growth so that its beauties may be appreciated and should be learned. Mr. Marston has shown us the way for this development to be worthy of becoming even more famous than Balboa Park.

Garden Strolls with the Editor

Garden resolutions are in order. Why not resolve this year to plan for continual color. Keep a calendar of the plants you want as you see them in bloom.

Speaking of calendars, one of the neatest affairs for this purpose is the one put out by the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club. They sent me one for Christmas and it looks like it is going to be one of my most valuable garden aids.

Besides having cultural directions for each month of the year there are a number of valuable lists such as books and magazines, nurserymen and seedsmen and other specialties. There is space to make notes for each day of the year and if properly kept this diary could be the most usable book in your garden library.

Why don't people plant more heather? I mentioned *Erica melanthera* as the outstanding plant of the month. This is a new feature of CG and we'll see how closely my selection each month compares with yours.

Smart folks are getting their ground ready for deciduous plant material. The next three months are the best for planting dormant trees. In that bed where you are going to have roses or in those spaces where the berries or trees are going, work in a liberal supply of manure.

Every garden should find room for a Persimmon—the Hachiya variety. The fruit is sweet and rich and the color is grand for fall decoration effects. Easy to grow too.

Your rose selection is going to be especially hard this year. Carolyn Ladd tells us about some of the finer new varieties. For a single rose I like Dainty Bess. It bears beautiful clusters of soft rose-pink blooms with long stamens. It is tall growing and has a delicate charm all its own. It is fine for vases. No rose garden is complete without some of the single roses.

Mermaid is a favorite climber of mine. This rose is indispensable in any garden that has room for it. It can be grown as a wall or fence

subject, as a pillar rose, or it makes an excellent ground cover, especially near the sea where other plants will not do so well. Its great mass of shiny evergreen foliage is as effective in winter as in summer. It blooms steadily during the season with large single ivory colored flowers with showy gold centers.

Don't forget the marigolds when you are planning for next spring's color. Yellow Supreme is a very new one of the African type. It has large fluffy petals of lemon-yellow and a fragrance of mild honey. The foliage is almost odorless.

While you are making those New Year's resolutions, why not resolve to take a more active part in your Floral Association? Let's start the year out by each bringing in at least one new member.

December Party

At the annual Christmas party of the San Diego Floral Association there assembled the largest attendance of members and guests of any previous party. The room was fittingly decorated with berried shrubs donated by the Park attendants and a Christmas tree by Dewey Kelley, and there were lighted candles in the windows.

Mrs. Greer in her opening remarks, made mention of an article in a late issue of Readers Digest on pines, urging all to read it.

The Association's piano, a gift from Mrs. Gertrude Evans, was christened, and the audience caught the real Christmas spirit when two selections were given by the Misses Alma Marks, violinist, and Lela Marks, accompanist on the piano. The first was "Calm Is the Night" by Bahm, and second, "A Medley of Christmas Times." These were followed by community singing of songs and carols with Senator Wm. E. Harper leading, and Miss Helen Trevey at the piano.

In the absence of Mr. Morley, Miss K. O. Sessions gave a very entertaining talk on berried shrubs and plants in bloom at this time. Her valuable hints on planting and caring for the plants were told in her usual individual way, illustrating with specimens. Among those

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OUT-STANDING PLANT OF THE MONTH

January—*Erica melanthera*.

One of the most popular plants of that group called heath or heather is the fast growing *Erica melanthera* which blooms in winter with delicate pinkish-lavender flowers with black eyes. These cup-like blossoms completely cover the plant making it a fine holiday decoration either potted or as cut sprays. The species is easily recognized by the tiny black anthers which have supplied the specific name, *melanthera*. It hails from South Africa which has given California so many exotic plants.

The blossoms often stay on till March and during the rest of the year the plant is quite decorative. The plant does well both on the coast and in the warm interior.

This and other members of the genus are excellent as specimen plants and in masses they are striking. Another advantage is that many bloom in winter when the flowers are most appreciated.

Most of the heathers are easily cultivated if we remember that they do not like manure. The best soil is a light peat mixed with sharp coarse sand and free from lime, bonemeal and animal fertilizer. Perfect drainage must be supplied and they prefer partial shade. Larger-growing shrubs should not be planted close, for heathers are easily crowded.

There are few groups of plants which offer the possibilities of the ericas. The newer hybrids are mostly French but South Africa has given the world many native heaths and there are hundreds more awaiting exploitation. Their range of color is wide and many of the dwarfs would add a new note to our stock gardens.

Erica melanthera is often called Scotch heather but the heath of English literature and history belongs to the closely allied genus *Calluna*. The true ericas comprise about 500 species nine-tenths of which are from South Africa and the rest mostly from the Mediterranean region. There are no native heaths in this hemisphere. All the heaths grown on a large scale have been developed from the South African species.

A California Garden

By FRANK F. GANDER

What is a California Garden? The usual one might almost be defined as a garden where California plants are not grown, for in few places will one find such a dearth of native Californians as in the gardens of the Golden State. From the far corner of the earth, we have brought plants for our gardens, while we have neglected the flora at our doorstep—a flora so marvelously rich that our state is famous throughout the world for its wild flowers. We have planted Australian gums of the genus *Eucalyptus* until they dominate our urban landscapes; we have helped the Pepper Tree spread wide its branches over so much of our land that many people never suspect that it is not native here but belongs to Peru. We have, in fact, made of our gardens, as of our nation, a vast "melting pot" where immigrants from all lands mingle.

And what is to be the result? Is our region to be famous only for its Mexican poinsettias, for its Australian *Eucalypti*, its Peruvian Peppers, its palms from Brazil and the Canary Islands? Or do we have some true native plants which are worthy of dominant places in our gardens? The glorious trees of our mountains, the chaparral of our hills, and the lesser plants of canyons and valleys—are these not material from which we can build real California gardens?

Scour the world and we can scarcely find a handsomer tree than the Madrone (*Arbutus Menziesii*) yet how many have ever been planted in our city? It grows wild in at least three places in San Diego county so there is reason to believe that it would do well here. The California Laurel or Sweet Bay (*Umbellularia California*), too, will rival any tree for beauty, and it has the added utilitarian value of its savory leaves. What finer flowering shrubs are grown than the Fremontia (*Fremontia mexicana*), the Lakeside Lilac (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), and the Snowdrop Bush (*Styrax officinalis* var. *fulvescens*)? Our annuals, our herbaceous perennials, our rock garden plants, our cacti

and other succulents, are they not acclaimed by all lands?

Let us, in imagination, stroll through a real California garden—a garden of California natives, and get acquainted with some of the plants growing there. In January, we find that the Coast Blue Lilac (*Ceanothus tomentosus* var. *olivaceus*) and the Coast White Lilac (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) are lovely masses of dainty flowers; we find the fresh, dark green of the Sugar Berry (*Rhus ovata*) and of the Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) dotted with clusters of pink blossoms, and we find the Laurel Sumac (*Rhus laurina*) in its greatest glory with the tender new leaves at the ends of the branches running the full gamut of color from dark red to bright green. We find the yellow-flowered Bush Penstemon (*P. anтирhinoides*) acquiring new leaves, as is also a nearby plant of the aromatic Cleveland Sage (*Salvia Clevelandii*) whose bright blue flowers, we know, will open at the same time as its neighbor's yellow ones.

In a shaded corner, the Fuschia-flowered Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*) hangs its crimson pendants, and near it, the Snowdrop Bush or California Storax is a white mound of fragrant loveliness. Shooting Stars (*Dodecatheon Clevelandii*) and the Yellow Violets (*Viola pedunculata*) are blooming in the flower beds, and the annual Fringed Gilia (*Gilia diathoides*) covers a showy sweep of the yard. The perennial California Blue Larkspur (*Delphinium Parryi*) is sending up bud stalks which will reach a height of three feet or more. Young plants of the annual Scarlet Larkspur (*Delphinium cardinalis*) are bravely starting a growth which may take them higher than a man can reach, and we admire the courage of one who dares to use the living, glowing flame of this plant in his garden. The first buds of the Wild Peonies (*Paeonia Brownii*) are beginning to show among their pretty leaves.

In the rock garden, all is growth and aspirations with but little sign of flowers so early in the year. True, the last wilted blossoms of the California Fuschia (*Zauschneria californica*) add their little note of

color, and the Fairy Mat (*Euphorbia maculata*) blooms as it spreads its dainty circle. A few yellow buds are showing on the Silvery Lotus (*Lotus argophyllus*) where it has poured an argentine shower over a lichenized boulder. But the Creeping Sage (*Salvia sonomensis*), the Scarlet and White Monardellas (*Monardella macrantha* and *M. nana*), the Red Lotus (*Lotus grandiflorus*), the Purple Skulcap (*Scutellaria tuberosa*), and a host of others are but starting their upward climb toward the glory of flowers.

Just outside the door of the lath house, a rounded bush of the Tassel Spurge (*Acalypha californica*) is decked with red tassels of staminate flowers and feathery clusters of pistillate ones. Inside, we find Chain Ferns (*Woodwardia Chamissoi*) towering above our heads, Bracken (*Pteris aquilina* var. *pubescens*) reaching an even greater height, and lesser ferns of many kinds. On the Azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*) leaf buds are swelling, and nearby a Snowberry is laden with its waxen fruit. Club mosses (*Selaginella*) climb over the rocks around a little pool on the margins of which White Rein-orchis (*Habenaria leucostachya*), Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes Romanzoffiana*), and the Stream Orchis (*Epipactis gigantea*) are starting to grow. Winter rosettes of the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) are scattered here and there.

A peppermint-like fragrance reaches us as we brush past a billowing clump of the San Miguel Mint (*Satureja Chandleri*), and we stoop to admire the pretty white flowers which it produces throughout the year. Bordering the path, the California Saxifrage (*Saxifraga californica*) has raised its pleasant blossoms, while *Heuchera brevistaminea*, a rarity from the Laguna mountains, has spread its rounded leaves. Markers show where Fairy Lantern (*Calochortus albus*) and Tiger Lily (*Lilium Humboldtianum* var. *Bloomerianum*) bulbs have been planted. In some of our coastal canyons, these last tower to eight feet and may produce as many as fourteen blooms to a stalk. Red Columbines (*Aquilegia truncata*) tremble among the ferns; Giant Rye Grass (*Elymus dondens*) grows

Winter Dahlia Notes

By F. G. JACKSON

If you have permitted your dying dahlia plants to disfigure your garden through November and December, you can now begin to reap your reward. They can now be cut down and, soon after, the tubers dug up. There should be a fine crop. Better do the tuber digging gradually. Your whole dahlia bed ought to be turned over deep each winter anyway, and it is easier and safer to combine this with the harvesting.

A good way is to start at one corner and remove the dirt at least eight inches deep from a space big enough to work in, piling the dirt temporarily out of the bed. When within a foot or so of each root clump, work around it until it stands as an island. Then fork deep under it on all sides, loosening and removing as much dirt as possible. Remember that those tubers are as crisp and brittle as radishes. They have long, slender necks; and a broken-necked tuber is no good. The mother tuber may have grown much bigger, or one or more big tubers may have grown out in any direction, even straight down. If you take it easy and clear away the dirt and free each tuber without moving it, you can finally lift clear the whole clump. You will be proud of its size.

Before you forget it, take your label off the stake, be sure the name

in a bamboo-like clump in a corner, and the Fragrant Potentilla (*Potentilla truncata*) adds its pungent spiciness to the earthy odor of the soil.

From the lath house, we go to the succulent garden, passing under an arbor covered with the Pride-of-California (*Lathyrus splendens*) and other vines. All about us are a host of Californians, some one of them admirably suited to almost any phase of ornamental planting.

As we leave, we realize that we have seen a true California garden—a garden as typical of California as is the Poppy or Quail which have been selected as our official emblems, and a garden which could not be duplicated in any other part of the world.

on it is clearly legible, and fasten it to the stem.

Move each clump as seldom and as little as possible for a week. Let it lie stem more or less down till the tubers have dried and hardened and any moisture that might rot the vital part, the crown, has drained away. Then you can treat them more roughly, washing out dirt between tubers, and putting them into shaded, dry, mouse-free storage.

Then comes the indoor sport that you can string out through rainy days till planting time, dividing the clumps. You will need: a hack saw blade, a sharp knife, an indelible pencil, a pan of water, and a score sheet. Everyone has their own ideas about dividing. I like to begin with a saw-cut from below upward, splitting the stem till I get above the crown, making smaller units to work on. Then select the best and most likely tubers and cut away the rest. The crown must be split so that each good tuber has a piece of crown with an eye in it. The eyes, from which come next year's plants, are all on the main stem, close to where the tubers attach. A piece of this "crown" bearing an eye and a tuber to nourish it until roots are developed are necessary for planting. But the eyes are not always visible at first; an apparently blind tuber may develop one later.

When a clump has been cut up into good tubers and waste, stop and wash off each tuber. Then on a clean smooth surface of it, still wet, write its name with the indelible pencil. Then start on the next clump.

When all are ready they may be packed away in boxes. Any loose material, peat, sand, sawdust, or shavings, will serve. The packing should be slightly damp to keep the bulbs from withering. A little flake naphthalene will keep out all bugs.

Dahlias can then be forgotten till March. Then look them over and moisten the packing quite a little, so that tubers will be solid and sprouts will be coming by planting time.

How to get rid of dandelions in the lawn . . . Dissolve 2 pounds of iron sulphate in a gallon of water. With a small spoon, pour a small amount on each dandelion plant.

Roses in January

By
CAROLYN LADD LUKEHART

Just how much have you really done towards preparing your rose beds. By this time leaf-mold and mulches should be mixed in with the soil. It is most certainly true that adobe soil is excellent for roses, but the rainy season is near at hand and the mulch in the soil prevents the soil from packing. A bit of iron oxide mixed in is very good towards producing sturdy stems and flowers.

Arrange your rose beds in your mind before you do the actual planting. Quite often it helps to take paper, pencil and crayons and draw a landscape map of your home using crayons for your color chart. Your personal tastes may be expressed by arranging the light delicate shades first, then into yellow and bi-colors and then to dark pink, red and the Nigrette for a final; or you might choose just to mix the shades. The following are a few of the popular choice:

White: Caledonia, Frau Karl Druschki.

Yellow: Joanna Hill, Mrs. E. P. Thom, Souv. de C. Pernet, Ville de Paris.

Bicolor: Autumn, Talisman, Pres. Hoover.

Pink: Dame Edith Helen, Los Angeles, Pink Radiance.

Red: E. G. Hill, Hadley Hoosier Beauty, Red Radiance.

Climbers: Belle of Portugal, Talisman, Pauls Scarlet.

New varieties are being presented each year. This year we have a lovely new tree rose. Yosemite is a new seedling that is a beautiful coppery orange. Erect stems and glossy foliage and disease-resistant. This rose is one of the most profuse blooming we have ever seen, providing dozens of perfectly formed flowers in one season. The Rio Rita is a hardy climbing tea rose. After 30 years of experiment it has been developed to bloom continuously every month of the year, and blossoms profusely on each year's new growth. It is a full flowered rose, deep crimson in color and because of its

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Older Than Oldtown —Presidio Park

By Percy C. Broell

Presidio Park, a unit of the San Diego city park system, is where our West began, where California was born, and where the first of her twenty-one famous missions was built. This historic spot was transformed into a park mainly through the generosity of Mr. George W. Marston, who presented it to the City of San Diego. Located on the northern edge of San Diego, overlooking Mission Valley to the east and the bays and shores of the Pacific to the west. Presidio Park offers a wide appeal to both the garden lover and the student of history. Of its forty acres, seven are set in lawns shaded by tall growing trees. Picnic tables and grills for outdoor cooking are to be found at well-placed intervals, also rest-rooms. Along ten miles of pathway, mostly grased, rock signs direct the tourist from one historic point to another.

To walk over all the paths of the park, to visit Serra Museum which houses interesting collections of early California, to study Presidio's landscaping, would require several hours. This article is written to acquaint those interested, with the botanical and historic worth of Presidio Park; and to invite them to visit it so that they may learn further of its history and enjoy its landscape. A Touring Guide of Presidio Park is available at the park office, where may be obtained also any additional information desired. By appointment, a guide will be provided for large parties of visitors.

Briefly outlined, the story of Presidio is as follows: Centuries before the white race settled on these western shores, on the hill now known as Presidio Park, there dwelled a tribe of Indian fisherfolk in the village of Cosoy. In days gone by Presidio Hill was the most prominent point of land inside the harbor, Point Loma then being an Island. It offered to the Indian tribe advantages found nowhere else—protection from the winter floods which swept the lowlands, and a plentiful supply of fresh water from

the abundantly flowing river encircling the hill on the north. It commanded a sweeping view and easy access to both bay and river, affording defense from surprise attack by roving hostile tribes.

It was to the mouth of this river that Cabrillo's men, who landed from the two ships San Salvador and Victoria on September 28, 1542, came in search of water. Centuries later Father Junipero Serra and his compatriots selected this hillsite as the beginning of their missionary and colonization endeavors in Alta California. Cosoy was not the only village along the bay shores, but it is of importance because its inhabitants were the first to come in direct conflict with California's first Spanish colonists.

It was in 1769 that King Carlos III of Spain, alarmed by reports of Russian activity along the California coast, organized the sacred Expedition of Galvez. Gasper de Portola was commissioned Governor of Alta California and given command of the colonizing expedition. Fra Junipero Serra was appointed president of the Spanish Franciscans who accompanied the expedition for the purpose of winning the natives to Christianity and civilization.

Thus it came about that the first Presidio and Mission were established on the hillsite in Old San Diego now preserved as a park. On July 16, 1769, Father Serra and the soldiers of Spain set the Royal Standard and raised the Cross on this bluff overlooking the valley and harbor, thereby dedicating Mission San Diego de Alcala. It is interesting to note here that Father Serra himself failed to secure a single convert from the nearby tribe of Cosoys. The Indians not only stubbornly resisted the kindness of the missionary fathers, but proved hostile, within a short time openly attacking the little fort. Soon thereafter, they retreated from the hillside.

Serra Cross, which stands today overlooking that ancient presidio and pueblo ground, is the center of interest. Twenty-eight feet in height, it was built in 1913 by the Order of Panama of tile salvaged from the old ruins. To the east of the Cross is the chapel site, a secluded

grove sheltered by pepper trees. This is the hallowed spot where Father Serra raised the first rude cross and built the first Mission Church. Here stands his beautiful statue, The Padre in prayer, work of the distinguished sculptor, Arthur Putnam. The carpeting of this chapel-like site is green grass and along its roadway entrance is planted the beautiful *Mesembryanthemum croceum*. Its ivy-clad slopes form walls around the chapel site, and beautiful olive and pepper trees shelter it. Small attractive stone benches adorn either side of The Padre, whose bronze coloring stands forth vividly against a deep green background of *Rhus integrifolia*.

Presidio Ruins, now encircled by a wall erected on the foundation of that surrounding the first settlement and Mission, shelter not alone the chapel site and Serra Cross. Serra Cross, standing where once was the commandante's house, overlooks the entire compound area within which were housed the chapel, storehouses, commandante's house, bastion, quarters for soldiers and burial grounds. The officers' quarters and soldiers' barracks may be traced in rough outline of fallen walls on the northern side. The bastion, a fortified lookout on the southeast corner of the compound, is erected on the site of the old one. A stairway leads to its top, from which may be obtained an excellent view of the surrounding grounds. Numerous burials have been uncovered within the compound.

The compound area and Presidio ruins are distinguished by a wide expanse of lawn. Serra Cross is in the setting of graceful palms; and on the opposite side of the road from the Cross is a winding walk that leads through a very well landscaped cactus garden. Here are many varieties of desert plantation, centered in which is the open platformed Lookout. This Lookout is constructed on the ruin of an original presidio lookout. "The Indian" in the foreground is also the work of Arthur Putnam. In the continuing of this cactus garden is a wide and interesting variety of yuccas, aloes and succulents. The mounds in this section of the park, as well as those in the area of the bastion,

indicate ruins of the early settlement. The excavated mound just west and south of the Cross, within the quadrangle is the old guardhouse. The contours of these mounds are well preserved, and from time to time interesting excavations disclose old bits of pottery, fallen walls, floor and roof tile practically intact, particles of iron utensils; and within the courts of the houses burials have been unearthed. The purpose of these excavations will be set forth in the near future.

Just beyond the Lookout and below the compound wall is a delightful picnic area, shaded by pepper trees. A grill for cooking is to be found here, also restrooms nearby. Approach to the picnic tables may be had either from the Lookout or from the Franciscan Garden in the lowest level of the park. Convenient parking may be had in either section, for automobile parties.

Franciscan Garden, fronting Taylor Street in Old San Diego, is a lovely quiet retreat, named in honor of the Roman Catholic Order of Saint Francis, of which Father Serra was a member. Here were buried the victims of scurvy from the expedition of 1769; and this area was used as a burial ground until about 1850. The Franciscan Garden is a popular pageantry setting, and has been the scene of a lovely garden wedding as well as outdoor fiesta-style entertaining.

In the moonlight Serra Cross stands forth in gracious dignity, and is clearly visible from the Franciscan Garden. It is as though the influence of the Cross reaches out to every corner of the park—just as from the presidio itself Spanish influence and the Christian religion spread northward throughout the state. Although by 1776 the Mission had been moved permanently six miles up the river, Spain maintained a small garrison of soldiers on this hill for more than half a century. After Mexico established her independence from Spain, California became a colony. But it was not until 1825 that the first Mexican governor took office, Don Jose Maria de Echeandia, establishing his capital at the presidio in Presidio Park where he remained until 1835 and where the capital was maintained

until the American occupation.

Soon, however, dissension divided the Californians, the north against the south, those of the north threatening to attack the Old San Diego garrison. Earthworks were hastily constructed in 1832—on the heights above in Presidio Park—later to be used against their builders by a new invader in the offing.

Fort Stockton, site of that 1832 fortification, has a proud and unique history. In 1846 Commodore Robert F. Stockton established there a garrison, and the reconstructed earthworks were named Fort Stockton. It was here in December, 1846, that General Kearny ended his memorable march begun almost six months before. Later there was garrisoned at Fort Stockton part of the celebrated Mormon Battalion, famed for completing the longest march of infantry in the history of the world. Here is mounted the famous old gun "El Jupiter," cast in Manila in 1783 and used at Fort Guajarros on Ballast Point on March 22, 1803 during the affair with the American smuggling brig "Lelia Byrd." This historic fort is now marked with a steel flagstaff 100 feet in height.

Recently the grounds around the flagstaff have been put into lawns, and sprinkling systems installed. Bordering these lawns is the beautiful *Crataegus yunnanensis*, with its bright red berries. In the trench around the fort are innumerable varieties of succulents. Towering to within 35 feet of the height of the flagstaff are the beautiful *Eucalyptus corynocalyx*. Winding grass paths lead to the Exedra, a semi-circular bench set in a large lawn also bordered by *Crataegus yunnanensis*. Here may be seen from the roadside the *Acacia podalyriefolia* almost fully in bloom, bearing showy yellow flowers against a background of gray foliage. The stone steps and path across the road from the Exedra lead to the *Eucalyptus* grove.

Eucalyptus Grove, situated on the second highest point in Presidio Park and directly above Serra Museum, is planted in towering *Eucalyptus corynocalyx* and possibly eight other varieties of eucalyptus, flowering and otherwise. Footing

the trees is another grassed picnic spot. Just to the east of the grove is a large pergola, looking down on Blue Lilac and Palm Canyon.

Blue Lilac and Palm Canyon, one of the newest features of the park, promises to become one of its loveliest. As viewed from above in the pergola, it is a deep ravine, beginning a few yards from Eucalyptus Grove and continuing on down to the floor of Mission Valley road. At its base are three small lakes planted in *Papyrus* and water hyacinth. Water features of this kind are particularly charming in our southwest. Down the canyon walls are the "Blue Lilac"—*Ceanothus cyaneus*, Matilija poppies and the California holly or toyon berry. The floor of the ravine is a long grassy sward, and the arroyos leading from the base upwards into the canyon walls are planted with *Washingtonia robusta* and some of the *Cocos australis*. *Phoenix canariensis*, some of which are already 35 feet tall, add to the semi-tropic appearance of this "Happy Valley."

Serra Museum may be viewed in different aspect from this canyon.

Situated directly east of Presidio Ruins, it is the crowning architectural feature of Presidio Park, a noble building and a landmark of remarkable significance. It is of that simple classic design used by the Franciscan fathers in the construction of their twenty-one missions along the El Camino Real. The walls are of cement, roofed with red tile. The building proper consists of a high timbered roof, Spanish balconies, and office and other room conveniences. The south entrance is set with tile salvaged from the colonial ruins, made by the Indian neophytes in 1800. Their imitations were used in the floors and steps. The museum tower rises 70 feet, offering vistas of Fort Stockton, Serra Cross and the surrounding countryside. Most of the furniture in the building is of Old Spanish make and was selected and imported specially for this museum. Many articles of pioneer make are represented along with those brought from abroad. A suitable library has been provided for record and research. Open to those interested in history. The museum is

open daily except Mondays, with a curator in attendance. There is no admission charge.

The green lawns fronting Serra Museum contrast with the whiteness of its walls. Olive trees around the building and the larger Eucalyptus throw their shadows, tending to soften the severity of the building. Illuminated by flood light in the evening, the museum presents a striking effect of shadowed trees and shrubs blending into a harmonious whole with the building itself.

Between the presidio wall and the museum was located the presidio corral for the animals, and farther on is an area with indications of deep cultivation, doubtless used for dry farming.

It is interesting to note that as well as being a park rich in historic lore, Presidio Park also fulfills a practical need—for in reality it is the most travelled roadway from the Hillcrest District down to the Coast Highway. The "Upper Entrance" is graced by tall pillars, which are lighted in the evening. From Presidio Drive above the park on through the Upper Entrance, this roadway winds past Fort Stockton, Serra Museum, Presidio Ruins and the Lookout, dropping down into Chestnut Street, Old San Diego.

El Camino Real begins on Taylor Street, a few feet north of Chestnut. Here may be seen SERRA PALM, now protected by an iron fence. The palm, a *Phoenix dactylifera*, was planted by Father Serra in 1769, to mark the starting point of El Camino Real—the King's Highway—stretching northward to the last of the twenty-one historic California Missions. Now grown to a height of 75 feet, 6 inches, it is reputed to be the oldest palm in California.

Old San Diego, at the foot of Presidio Park, owes its beginning to that first little settlement which came down from the Presidio to follow civilian life. In the wake of the first Mission and Presidio came the little town—San Diego—"Birthplace of California."

Do you know the sensitive plant? It is *Mimosa pudica* and its finely divided leaves are sensitive to the touch.

GARDEN NOTES

Our Pink Poinsettia is displaying nature's ingenuity. It was hard hit by last winter's cold. Only a few weak shoots appeared in spring which were all removed with one exception. That one now has a good healthy bloom but the color is identical with the red. I suspect that all the color concealed in the root concentrated in the one stalk the amount fully intended for many.

Our Swanley Yellow Fuchsia which is usually fully content with an 18-inch height and proudly displaying its orange-pink, long handsome flowers, this season has grown over 4 feet, and its leaves large and the color the most rich bronze green we have ever seen in that variety. Also it is well branched, and even at this late date has many buds and blossoms. It is exposed to full east sun and its unusual vigor can not be explained except possibly, that the roots were well shaded by low plants in front of it.

The only deciduous Fuchsia, Pres. Goselli, shows no signs of losing its leaves—other years at this time it has lost many of them. And many Tropical Water Lilies are still blooming. Eastern papers please copy.

Henry Poincari is thought to be the best of this year's importations—a very large single, with violet red colorings. We have 2 small plants which we hope will be able to show their colors for you next spring.

Now is the accepted time to begin pruning your Fuchsias, as most of them are sufficiently dormant. If some few favorites still are favoring you with their colors, leave till a month later.

But when you take the pruning shears in your hand, put your sentiment in your pocket. Do not be soft hearted but cut as near to a bare upright stalk as you can—then remember that the more you cut, the better your plants will be next year—and right then and there, prune some more, if you are not wishing uprights, either from choice or from the fact that you have plenty of room and like the bushy type.

Or perhaps you have the basket types, but in all cases prune, and ac-

cording to the manner of growth preferred.

Also keep in mind that Fuchsias are shallow rooted, which is one reason why they need so much moisture and fertilizer and mulch as well as protection from the sun for their roots unless they are planted on the north. We forget that Fuchsias in their natural habitat are exposed to full sun—but in such a forest of plant growth that practically no sun touches the ground at their roots. Use all the kind heartedness you have by not digging around the roots.

Bertha Thomas.

Roses in January

(Continued from page 5)

luxuriant growth, whole sprays may be cut for decoration without injury to the bush. A Night in June is another new comer. The color of this beautiful variety is quite distinctive from anything yet seen in roses: it being of coral red shaded with apricot. A hardy, vigorous, well-branched and thorny shrub with burning bronze foliage. Possesses the habit and freedom of the Hybrid Teas and equals Hybrid Perpetuals in hardiness. A new yellow rose, Sun Gold is truly a glorious rose, wonderfully free in the easy manner in which it grows, and charming in its striking color of deep buttercup yellow without a trace of any other color, and retaining its richness under all weather conditions. It is very double, with long-pointed tight buds of perfect formation both in the bud and the fully developed flower. Its habit of growth is upright and tall, making it splendid for cutting. Owing to the fact that it has a tight bud, it will open and keep in the house over a long period of time. It is one of the most profuse bloomers of yellow roses.

For some reason or other the Nigrette rose, "The Black Rose of Sangerhausen," has held quite a fascination for me. The flowers are intensely deep maroon with blackish velvet and are deliciously fragrant. It is the darkest of roses—appearing almost black. The plant is continuously in bloom. This sensation of the European rose is now available in this country. Few flowers

are able to attain the intense depth of color of this rose whose petals seem fashioned from black velvet. It is an arresting feature in any garden, arousing the interest of all who see it.

Use good sharp pruners on your bushes when you are setting them out. Make a good clean diagonal cut and do not bruise the stems. Dull pruners really do more damage than leaving your bushes go. When pruning, leave approximately three main stems and then prune to inside buds or outside buds depending on the shape bush you desire.

Ants have been causing trouble by inhabiting the roots of our favorite flowers. They help spread disease and insects throughout our whole garden. Ants also feed on aphis. A good insecticide should be sprayed and then make a five to one solution of evergreen spray and pour this on the roots. Sometimes it is wise to use a soil fumigant such as Vaporite. This is good to put into your new rose bed. We can at least start off with a clean slate.

Rust and mildew resisting types of roses are two of the most important factors in choosing your roses. As I have said before, rust is one of the hardest diseases to combat. At times it seems that the best of fungicides fails to give the desired results. Before you do really give up, defoliate your bush and try spraying with Ortho lime sulphur (powdered). This seems to be quite effective. Sulphur is very good for mildew, but still an occasion might arise when we would like to make a display of roses but the foliage is discolored from using sulphur. I think you will get the same effect from using a copper spray such as Fungusol emulsion which is a liquid fungicide that does not discolor the foliage.

Your garden is as beautiful as you make it. It is true that a good deal of time should be spent in the garden. Try the rule of our systematic housewife. Budget your time. Plan to spend one or two hours in the yard each day. Maybe you will be up to your neck in work for the first few weeks, but later you will have time to putter around and put in cozy little rock garden nooks and time to rotate your flowers so that your yard will always be a rainbow of color.

Problems of the Soil

QUESTION: I am a novice in gardening, so will you please tell me the proper time to fertilize fig trees, rose bushes and poinsettias?

ANSWER: *It depends somewhat upon the fertilizing practice previously followed and upon the type of material to be used. The general practice is to make heavy applications of animal manures, preferably those from dairies or chicken runs, in the early spring and perhaps a little quick-acting nitrogen in the spring. This latter element may be applied in the form of sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of lime. The animal fertilizers take several months to break down and their plant food constituents so become available for the use of plants. Inasmuch as the plant food they contain should be available for the use of plants at the time they begin their spring growth, the early winter application of these materials is advised. This is more especially necessary in the case of roses, as they begin growth earlier than either fig trees or poinsettias. A handful of sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of lime can be scattered around each plant as spring growth starts. These latter fertilizers take several weeks, as a rule, to break down and become available to plant roots.*

QUESTION: I have a small place a little less than half a mile from the ocean. I would like to plant some fruit that would bring in a little income and am wondering about figs. What do you think about them for such a location? T. R.

ANSWER: *Unless you have an exceptionally warm location and one well sheltered from the ocean winds, the planting of figs for commercial purposes is not advised. Only in exceptional seasons will figs properly mature along the coast and if you expect to have to depend upon them for a part of your income you certainly want a fruit that can be depended upon every year, not once in four or five. Here and there figs may properly ripen in favorable locations relatively near the water but such instances are rare and not to be depended upon for a commercial venture. It would seem the part of wisdom to plant only such fruit or fruits as experience in your section has demonstrated best suited to your particular location. Why not investigate some of the small fruits, with particular reference to berries?*

December Party

(Continued from page 3)

mentioned were the cotoneasters which are splendid foliage plants, but their most valuable characteristic is the quantity of cheerfully colored berries. There are two varieties, the tall and the dwarf. Of the dwarf is the Cotoneaster thymifolia with its minute leaves and berries. The hawthorns, some with red berries and others having orange colored berries are very ornamental. Miss Sessions said the best plants grow from seedlings, and she urged that everyone sow the berries of toyon—California holly—in empty lots, in canyons, along roadsides—everywhere.

A Christmas gift was presented Miss Sessions by the treasurer, Mr. F. G. Jackson, from the Association.

A drawing of potted plants, by numbers, carried out the Christmas tree traditional custom. Cakes, with Wassail, a much used beverage in England at Christmas, were served, followed by a social hour.

Mrs. Olson is to be the speaker at the next meeting. She will talk on the gardens of Norway.

Gertrude M. Gibbs,

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